beg
ad thirty-eight citizens of the State and submitted to His Highness the Maha Raja so early as the 11th January 1891. Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, an endorsement was given to the memorialists, which declared that the actual foreigners in the country who held responsible offices were so few that they did not exceed half a dozen and that His Highness desired to give the petitioners the assurance that he would be happy to advance their interests in every legitimate way and to give effect to their desire. Though such a declaration of policy was made 30 years ago, and though there were a number of Travancoreans available, who had by their intellectual attainments and administrative capacity of a high order proved themselves equal to holding any office in the State, including the headship of the administration, the policy of importing foreigners to hold the office of Dewan and certain other high offices was still being largely pursued, and the number of such importations had only been in the increase in recent years. The Member continued that out of the thirty-seven appointments including the High Court Judges, Dewan Peishkars, Commissioner, Devicolam, the Principal, Arts College and other Heads of Departments, twenty-eight were held by foreigners at the present day. Of the Principal and the Professors of the College, all except the Principal were foreigners, and of the seven Assistant Professors four, and of the eleven Tutors, nine were foreigners, and in the other institutions of the Education Department there were very few Travancoreans who drew a salary of Rs. 100 or above. The Member concluded by saying that, as Travancore was far ahead of British India and other Native States in the matter of education and intellectual equipment, Government might be pleased to lay down a policy declaring that only Travancoreans would be entertained in the State service. He also added that the definition of "subjects of His Highness" in the Travancore Service Regulations was defective and that the term should be so defined as to include only those who were really the subjects of the State.

Dewan's reply.—You have struck a delicate chord. On the propriety of having a Travancorean or a foreigner as Dewan, I do not think I am competent to speak. My being here is not my fault. The general policy that you want Government to adopt, *viz.*, "Travancore for Travancoreans" is a very sound one, and I think it will be assuring to the House if I say that, so long as I am here, that policy will be steadily pursued There may be exceptional circumstances in which the importation of the foreign element may be absolutely necessary for the good of the country itself. Barring such exceptional cases, the policy of Government is "Travancore for Travancoreans."

140. Some suggestions re: Public Service.

Mr. V. R. Gopala Pillai (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) spoke at length about certain defects in the public service of the State and offered a few suggestions for their removal. At the outset he pointed out that the policy of borrowing the services of British officers should be discontinued. To secure on loan the services of British Officers for the headship of the administration of the State had, he stated, become almost a settled policy. The policy of bringing in outsiders for the place of Dewan was justifiable at a time when Travancore was lacking in men of educational qualifications and culture. But now in the State service there were officers of established merit and keen intellect and of sound statesmanship and above all, of vast experience, and competent enough to guide the destinies of the State. The Member also pointed out certain defects resulting from the policy of bringing in foreign officers as Dewans. The tenure of office of the Dewan generally lasted for 5 years, and though he might be an officer of established reputation in British India, in the generality of cases, he was still quite new to Travancore. It took him some time to get himself acquainted with the conditions of the State and the nature and peculiar customs of its people and the details of its administration. By the time he got himself acquainted with those matters, his term of office would come to a close and he would revert to the British service, practically leaving things half done or having done nothing at all. Again, in certain cases in which the interests of the British Government clashed with those of the State, it was very often possible that the foreign Dewan who had a lien on the British service, could not be expected to guard the interests of the State in preference to those of the service

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to which he belonged. In making those observations, the Member said that he was far from his object to make any personal attack on foreign Dewans. He respectfully realised the fact that the State had received innumerable benefits during the tenure of office of many a foreign Dewan. Now that, in point of education and intellectual equipment, Travancore had risen to the level of any other State, the Member pleaded only for the just and equitable claims of the sons of the soil to occupy the place of Dewan of the State. The Member also dwelt at length on the policy of appointing foreigners as heads of departments in the State. He had nothing to say against the individual officers who were not the sons of the soil, but he only protested emphatically against the principle of taking foreigners into the State service. The Member finally said that all appointments in the State service from the Dewan downwards should be confined to Travancoreans.

The Member then referred to the definition of the term "subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja" as set forth in the Service Regulations, and observed that it was defective in many ways and requested that the same might be modified so as to include under the definition only such as were born subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. He suggested that the rule might be strictly observed that no person other than a subject of His Highness the Maha Raja should be entertained in the Travancore service and that the policy of taking in outsiders in the State service should be discontinued.

The Member pointed out that in the matter of appointments and promotions, Government had not declared any settled policy. If in one instance promotion went by service, in another it went by efficiency, in a third it went by qualification and in a fourth it went by caste. If Government would declare a policy that appointments and promotions would be made on considerations of efficiency, honesty and qualification, the complaint for communal representation in the service might be avoided to a great extent.

Another suggestion the Member made was regarding the separation of the Revenue Department from the control of the Magistracy. As both the Revenue and the Magisterial duties devolved on the same person, either department of work suffered a good deal. Now the Tahsildar was the Revenue as well as the Magisterial officer. He was the Treasury Officer, the Census Officer, etc.; he had also to make arrangements for every officer that went to his taluk on tour. The Member insisted upon the proper inspection of the work of these officers by the Dewan Peishkars concerned. In regard to the administration of the Revenue department, the Member said that the Dewan Peishkars who were placed in charge of the department had no uniformity in their system of work, neither in procedure nor in practice. He therefore suggested (1) the separation of the Revenue and the Magistracy, (2) the appointment of a Revenue Commissioner as the head of the Revenue department throughout the State and (3) the division of the State into a number of districts so far as the Magisterial jurisdiction was concerned, each district possessing a District Magistrate and such number of subordinate Magistrates as were necessary.

He next brought forward certain suggestions for improving the moral tone, efficiency and status of the State service. He said that corruption should be put down with a strong hand. Corruption could be checked to a certain extent by proper control and supervision. Specific complaints of bribery were of course very rare but that was no reason to suppose that the public service was free from corruption. By private enquiries and requisition for confidential reports, it would not be difficult for Government to pick out such of the officers as were corrupt. The Member also referred to the old custom in Travancore of subordinates providing the necessary supplies to the heads of departments in their tours of inspection. That kind of supply had very often been made free or for a nominal payment. The system greatly affected the efficient control and supervision that were expected to be exercised by heads of departments. The Member suggested that the tone and status of the State service might be improved by raising the pay of the low-paid subordinates and that uniformity of remuneration might be maintained as far as possible.

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He further suggested that those who had passed the Pleadership Examination might be encouraged as far as possible in the State service. For such appointments as Sub-Inspectors of Police, Excise Inspectors, Sub-Registrars, Head Clerks of Munsiffs' and District Courts and Sheristadars of District Courts which required a knowledge of law, men who had passed the Pleadership Examination might be appointed with advantage. The Member concluded by saying that his suggestions might receive the careful consideration of Government.

The Member then submitted a memorial signed by the Nair Members of the Assembly praying for a just representation of Nairs in the public service of the State.

Dewan's reply.—Some of the suggestions made by the Member, such as relieving the executive as far as possible from judicial functions, are already engaging the attention of Government. The rest will be considered.

141. The entertainment of all classes of people in the public service, especially in the Revenue and Military Departments, without reference to caste or creed.

Mr. Jacob Kurien (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) said that he did not think that anybody could dispute his statement that, as regards appointments in the State, the Christians were not given a fair share in proportion to their educational and other attainments. He had certainly no objections to Nairs being given appointments. All that the Christians had been agitating for, for the past four or five years, was that equal opportunities should be afforded to all classes of His Highness' subjects to enter all branches of the State service. If the Government would only make a pronouncement that all the departments of State service were open to all classes of His Highness' subjects, the Christians would even assure Government that they would not press their claims for appointments in certain departments. Their agitation was not prompted by any desire for appointments, but was simply to secure from Government a declaration of the rights of all classes to enter all departments of the State. The Christians were also subjects of the State and the sons of the soil like other communities with the same blood running in their veins. The Member's contention was that, merely because they happened to embrace Christianity, they should not be treated differently from the other favoured communities. He then invited attention to the fact that every other community made a reference to the Christian community as one possessing education and other equipment. He believed that that was not due to any feeling of envy, but solely with a view to emulating the Christians. The Christians, the Member continued, were not behind any other class of His Highness' subjects in their loyalty to the Throne. They were paying taxes like the rest of His Highness' subjects and were sufficiently awake to their civic rights. They had also like their Nair brethren taken part in the consolidation of the country and in protecting it from outside aggression. There were records to show that Government had recognised that fact. In the southern districts the Madambimars had been given lands in recognition of their services to the State. Similar recognitions were to be seen in the northern and central districts bearing testimony to the loyalty of the Christians and the Brahmins. Three names stood foremost in the annals of the State, Raja Kesva Das, Rama Iyen Dalava and Captain De Lanoy who had played an important part in the consolidation of Travancore. It was Captain De Lanoy, a Christian, who gave military training to the people of the State. It was through the combined efforts of the three elements, the Nairs, the Brahmins and the Christians, that the State was able to withstand the attacks of Tippu Sultan in those days. The Christians were also promoters of new working in country. They were for a very long time busy with settling certain representation to ences that had cropped up amongst them with the result that they had, is the only time to turn their attention to administrative matters or take any proper steps are made them. During the time of Col. Munro who took charge of the administers. This com- Devaswoms, Christians were allowed to manage the Devaswom dep[illegible] have the power were Christian Tahsildars at the time. There was no meaning in their nominations Travancore Government was a Hindu Government. No Government should be recorded by itself with any religion. The objection held to the entry of

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